

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claim 1. (currently amended) A supporting part of a vehicle door, comprising an annular frame (12 - 19) that has two standing members (12, 13) united by means of two horizontal members (14, 15), wherein the frame has an open generally hat-formed cross-section with a central portion (25) and outer and inner flanges (26, 27) and is adapted to carry the outer panel of the door by its outer side flange (26), and a side impact guard (20) bridges the hole in the annular frame,

characterised by

means (21, 22) coupled between the outer side flange (26) of the frame and the inner side flange (27) at the connections of the side impact guard (20) to the annular frame (12 - 19).

Claim 2 (currently amended) The supporting part according to claim 1, characterised in that the side impact guard (20) is stamped from a ~~plane~~ steel sheet together with the annular frame.

Claim 3. (currently amended) The supporting part according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, characterised in that the side impact guard comprises a beam (20) coupled to the forward standing member (12) and the means (21) for coupling together said outer and inner flanges (26, 27) at the front end of the impact guard beam is

arranged to give both the forward standing frame member (12) and the front end of the side impact guard beam a closed profile.

Claim 4. (original) The supporting part according to claim 3, characterised in that the frame has an upper and a lower fastening for hinges (34, 35), and the means (21) for coupling together the outer and inner flanges at the front end of the impact guard beam is arranged to give the forward standing frame member (12) a closed profile both at the upper and the lower hinge fastenings.

Claim 5. (original) The supporting part according to claim 4, characterised in that the means (21) for coupling together the outer and inner flanges (26, 27) at the front end of the impact guard beam is bent to make a reinforcement for the hinge fastenings.

Claim 6. (new) The supporting part according to claim 2, characterised in that the side impact guard comprises a beam (20) coupled to the forward standing member (12), and the means (21) for coupling together said outer and inner flanges (26, 27) at the front end of the impact guard beam is arranged to give both the forward standing frame member (12) and the front end of the side impact guard beam a closed profile.

Claim 7. (new) The supporting part according to claim 6, characterised in that the frame has an upper and a lower

fastening for hinges (34, 35), and the means (21) for coupling together the outer and inner flanges at the front end of the impact guard beam is arranged to give the forward standing frame member (12) a closed profile both at the upper and the lower hinge fastenings.

Claim 8. (new) The supporting part according to claim 7, characterised in that the means (21) for coupling together the outer and inner flanges (26, 27) at the front end of the impact guard beam is bent to make a reinforcement for the hinge fastenings.